

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a product configured to perform electronic functions, the product having electronic control circuits; and
a verification and activation module configured to be removably or permanently coupled, or remain removably or permanently coupled, to the electronic control circuits of the product after a purchase of the product;[[,]]
wherein the verification and activation module is configured for facilitating the activation of ~~activates~~ the electronic control circuits of the product such that the electronic functions of the product become enabled; and
wherein the verification and activation module includes a memory configured to receive and store data during a purchase of the product, such that the data received and stored during the purchase of the product remains removably or permanently stored in the product after the purchase of the product.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the verification and activation module is removably coupled to the product.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control circuits of the product are deactivated when the verification and activation module is not coupled to the product.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the verification and activation module is programmed with information.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises purchase date and price of the product.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises warranty information for the product.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises data about a consumer who purchased the product.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises data about a manufacturer of the product.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the programmed information comprises data about the product.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the verification and activation module comprises a non-volatile programmable memory.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the non-volatile memory is selected from the group consisting of electrically erasable and programmable read only memory (EEPROM), Flash memory and battery backed-up random access memory (RAM).

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the product comprises verification and activation circuits.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the verification and activation module comprises a non-volatile programmable memory, and verification and activation circuits.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security feature that deactivates the product when outside of a geographical location.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security feature that deactivates the product when a security signal is not present.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein warranty history of the product is stored in the non-volatile memory.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein repair history of the product is stored in the non-volatile memory.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein maintenance history of the product is stored in the non-volatile memory.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a communications interface coupled to the verification and activation module.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the communications interface is selected from the group consisting of WIFI and Bluetooth.

21-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A system for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said system comprising:

an original product configured for electronic operation;

a verification and activation module coupled to the original product; and

a replacement product configured for electronic operation, wherein when the verification and activation module is removed from the original product and coupled to the replacement product, the electronic operation of the replacement product is enabled and the electronic operation of the original product is disabled.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein once the replacement product has been enabled for operation by the verification and activation module, the original product cannot be enabled again by the verification and activation module.

40. (Previously Presented) A system for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said system comprising:

an original product configured for electronic operation and having a first verification and activation module; and

a replacement product configured for electronic operation and having a second verification and activation module, wherein when the first verification and activation module is in communication with the second verification and activation module, the electronic operation of the replacement product is enabled and the electronic operation of the original product is disabled.

41. (Original) The system of 40, wherein the communication is wireless.

42. (Original) The system of 40, wherein the communication is by wire.

43-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) A method for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an original product configured for electronic operation and having a verification and activation module;

providing a replacement product configured for electronic operation; and

removing the verification and activation module from the original product; and

installing the verification and activation module in the replacement product, causing the electronic operation of the replacement product to become enabled and the electronic operation of the original product to become disabled.

49. (Previously Presented) A method for replacing an original product with a replacement product, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an original product configured for electronic operation and having a first verification and activation module;

providing a replacement product configured for electronic operation and having a second verification and activation module; and

communicating between the first and second verification and activation modules such that the electronic operation of the replacement product is enabled and the electronic operation of the original product is disabled.

50. (Currently Amended) A method for product security, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a product configured for electronic operation and having a verification and activation module; ~~and~~

during a purchase of the product by a customer, collecting or accessing data relating to at least one of the consumer, the purchase date, and the purchase time;

storing the collected or accessed data in a memory provided in the verification and activation module that is removably or permanently coupled to the product, such that the data stored in the memory during the purchase of the product remains removably or permanently stored in the product after the purchase of the product; and

~~communicating with~~ the verification and activation module enabling such that the electronic operation of the product ~~is enabled when~~ after a correct security code is communicated to the verification and activation module.

51-52. (Cancelled)